

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*July 17*

- 1        1. A system for facilitating the presentation of  
2        inventory items, comprising:  
3                a plurality of separate stores;  
4                an elongate wall separating each store, each wall  
5        having a doorway, with the doorways being aligned with each  
6        other; and  
7                an aisle passing through each doorway such that a  
8        customer may visualize at least some of the interior of each  
9        ~~store while standing in the aisle and looking down the aisle,~~
- 1        2. A system as in claim 1, wherein the walls  
2        generally prevent the visualization of the items within  
3        adjacent stores when the customer is away from the aisle.
- 1        3. A system as in claim 1, wherein each store  
2        includes four outer walls.
- 1        4. A system as in claim 3, wherein the walls are  
2        orthogonal to each other.
- 1        5. A system as in claim 1, wherein each store  
2        ~~further includes at least one outside entrance.~~
- 1        6. A system as in claim 1, wherein each store  
2        includes items of a particular type, and wherein the item  
3        types for each store are different from each other.
- 1        7. A system as in claim 1, wherein each wall  
2        includes a pair of doorways, and wherein the aisle circuits  
3        through each store while passing through the doorways.
- 1        8. A system as in claim 1, wherein each store is  
2        independently managed.

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1                   9. A system as in claim 1, wherein each doorway  
2 includes a door which may be closed to prevent access to the  
3 stores from within the stores.

1                   10. A system as in claim 1, further comprising a  
2 warehouse connected to at least some of the stores.

1 *Sub B2*       11. A building for housing groups of inventory  
2 items, the building comprising:

3                   an outer structure defining an interior;  
4                   a plurality of elongate dividers within the interior  
5 which divide the interior into separate stores, wherein each  
6 divider includes a pair of openings therein; and  
7                   an aisle circuiting the interior and passing through  
8 each of the openings, wherein a customer may walk along the  
9 aisle to circuit through each of the stores.

1                   12. A building as in claim 11, wherein each store  
2 includes a unique group of inventory items.

1                   13. A building as in claim 11, wherein the each  
2 pair of openings are aligned the other pairs of openings to  
3 allow the customer to view at least some of the interior of  
4 each store when looking down the aisle.

1                   14. A building as in claim 13, wherein the walls  
2 generally prevent the visualization of the items within  
3 adjacent stores when the customer is away from the aisle.

1                   15. A building as in claim 11, further comprising a  
2 gate which may be placed across each opening to prevent access  
3 to adjacent stores from within the stores.

1 *Sub C2*       16. A system for visually displaying unique groups  
2 of inventory items, the system comprising:

3                   an outer structure having a set of outer walls which  
4 define an interior;

5           a plurality of elongate dividers within the interior  
6    which divide the interior into separate stores, wherein each  
7    divider includes at least one opening therein to allow  
8    customers to pass through each of the stores; and

9           wherein each store includes a unique group of  
10    inventory items, and wherein the dividers are arranged such  
11    that a customer when within the interior can generally  
12    visualize only one of the unique groups of items at any given  
13    location within the interior.

1           17. A system as in claim 16, wherein the unique  
2    groups are selected from the groups consisting of bed  
3    mattresses, wood bedroom furniture, oak furniture and living  
4    room furniture.

1           18. A system as in claim 16, further comprising an  
2    aisle running through and connecting each opening.

1           19. A system as in claim 18, wherein the openings  
2    are aligned with each other to allow the customer to view at  
3    least some of the interior of each store when looking down the  
4    aisle.

1           20. A system as in claim 19, wherein each divider  
2    includes a pair of openings, and wherein the aisle circuits  
3    through each store while passing through the openings.

1           21. A method for presenting inventory items,  
2    comprising:

3           providing a plurality of stores which are separated  
4    from each other by elongate walls, each wall having a doorway,  
5    with the doorways being aligned with each other;

6           standing in an aisle which passes through each  
7    doorway; and

8           looking down the aisle and visualizing at least some  
9    of the interior of each store.

1           22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising  
2 moving away from the aisle and visually scanning the inventory  
3 of items within one of the stores, wherein visualization of  
4 the inventory items in the other stores is substantially  
5 prevented by the walls.

1           23. A method as in claim 21, wherein the walls  
2 have a pair of doorways, wherein the aisle circuits through  
3 each store while passing through the doorways, and further  
4 comprising walking the length of the aisle to circuit through  
5 each building.

1           24. A method as in claim 21, wherein each store  
2 includes a unique group of inventory items, and wherein the  
3 dividers are arranged such that a customer when within a  
4 particular store can generally visualize only one of the  
5 unique groups of items at any given location within the store.

1           25. A method for presenting inventory items, the  
2 method comprising:

3           providing a plurality of stores which are separated  
4 from each other by an elongate wall, each wall having a  
5 doorway, and wherein the doorways are in alignment with each  
6 other;

7           standing in the aisle and looking the length of the  
8 aisle to visualize at least part of the interior of each  
9 store;

10           selecting a desired store;

11           walking along the aisle until within the desired  
12 store;

13           visually scanning the inventory of items within the  
14 desired store while standing away from the aisle, wherein  
15 visualization of the inventory items in the other stores is  
16 substantially prevented by the walls; and

17           selecting a desired item within the desired store.

1           26. A method as in claim 25, further comprising  
2 returning to the aisle and selecting another store.

1           27. A method as in claim 25, wherein the walls have  
2 a pair of doorways, wherein the aisle circuits through each  
3 store while passing through the doorways, and further  
4 comprising walking the length of the aisle to circuit through  
5 each building.

1           28. A method as in claim 25, further comprising  
2 entering one of the stores through an outside entrance.

1           29. A method as in claim 25, wherein the inventory  
2 items in each store are different from each other.

1           30. A method as in claim 25, wherein each store is  
2 independently managed.

1           31. A method for enhancing display space within a  
2 building, the method comprising:

3           providing a building comprising a set of outer walls  
4 which define an interior;

5           dividing the building into a plurality of separate  
6 stores by placing a plurality of dividers within the interior,  
7 wherein each divider includes at least one opening therein to  
8 allow customers to pass through each of the stores along an  
9 aisle;

10           supplying each store with a unique group of  
11 inventory items; and

12           walking through each of the stores, with the  
13 dividers being arranged such that generally only one of the  
14 unique groups of items can be visualized at any given location  
15 within the interior when off the aisle.

1           32. A method as in claim 31, wherein the dividers  
2 have two openings and an aisle which circuits through each of  
3 the openings, and walking along the aisle to circuit the  
4 interior.

1                           34. A method as in claim 31, further comprising  
2 entering one of the stores through an outside entrance.

1 35. A method as in claim 31, wherein the inventory  
2 items in each store are different from each other.

1 36. A method as in claim 31, wherein each store is  
2 independently managed.